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NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Health and Sanitary Conditions

OF THE

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES
RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1953



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Norham & Islandshires Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area 47,011 acres.

Population—4,390.

No. of inhabited houses—1,469.

Rateable Value—£19,531.

Sum represented by a 1d. Rate—£80.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

There is no change in the social conditions of the district. Agriculture is the main industry, salmon fishing along the Tweed-side, and coal mining in the Scremerston area.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

		Total. Male. Female.			
Live Births	Legitimate	61	29	32	Birthrate per 1000
	Illegitimate	4	3	1	Population—14.80
Still Births	Legitimate	0	0	0	Rate per 1000
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	Population—nil
Deaths	... ..	49	24	25	Rate per 1000 Population—11.16

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis—Nil.

„ „ other Puerperal Causes—Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year—

All infants (per 1000 live births)—15.3.

Legitimate infants (per 1000 legitimate live births)—16.4.

Illegitimate infants—nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—5.

„ „ Measles—Nil.

„ „ Whooping Cough—Nil.

„ „ Diarrhoea—Nil.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer (part-time) Herbert F. Park, M.B., Ch.B.,
Norham.

Sanitary Inspector N. Senior. M.S.I.A., East Ord.

Laboratory Facilities County Laboratory, Newcastle.

Ambulance Facilities.—These are provided under the National Health Service, the depot being at Berwick. Ambulances and sitting cars are available and vehicles from other stations at Belford and Wooler are also obtainable. The depot has given excellent service.

Nursing.—Home nursing is also provided under the N.H.S. and District Nurses serving the area are resident in Norham, Berwick. Scremerston and Cornhill.

Hospitals.—There are no hospitals actually situated in the district. Those which serve the area are:—Berwick Infirmary (General), Marshall Meadows (Infectious), Castle Hills (Maternity), Greenhaven (Chronic and Aged Sick). There is a very great need for more provision for the care of the aged and chronic sick. Admissions to Greenhaven are so slow that a waiting time of 18 months is quite common.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.—This remains the Council's greatest difficulty, although advances are being made in parts of the area.

Cornhill.—Owing to the failure to get approval for the various schemes suggested, the Council have had to carry on with the original supply in the village. This they have acquired and have relaid new pipes throughout the village area. The supply, however, is very inadequate and progress here is therefore impeded.

Berwick. — Here a new borehole has been sunk and the quantity and quality of the water found to be satisfactory. And after further test pumping it will be possible to carry on piping the supply.

Holy Island.—There is every prospect that this problem will be solved in the coming year. The borehole was completed. The water obtained is of a satisfactory purity and is expected to produce approximately 30,000 gallons per day. Following further pumping tests the scheme will go ahead and tenders are being invited for the completion of the scheme.

East Ord and Scremerston.—The supplies here are now satisfactory—being obtained from the Berwick Borough. **Loanend, West Ord, Castle Heaton, Twizell and Donaldson's Lodge** areas are all in urgent need of piped supplies.

Drainage and Sewage.—East Ord—The improvements to the sewage system here are awaiting the result of negotiations with the District Valuer. **Cornhill**—The sewage scheme here is held up pending approval from the Ministry and other interested bodies.

Scavenging.—The present system of collection of household refuse by waggon continues to be satisfactory. The tips used are properly supervised and kept in order.

Rivers and Streams.—There is no gross pollution of streams in this area.

Housing is still acute in parts of the district, particularly in Cornhill. Owing to the hold-up experienced with regard to water and sewage, the prospect of an immediate start on the building of 22 new Council houses is very poor. The number will have to be reduced pro tem. Another setback here is the failure to get approval for the conversion of the hostel into dwellinghouses.

Norham and East Ord.—The Council is acquiring further sites in these villages for the erection of Council houses.

PARISHES WITH PIPED WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	Number of Houses	Houses with W.C.s	Houses with Baths	Houses with Standpipe supply only
Norham ...	214	170	150	2
Norham Mains ...	11	9	9	2
Horncliffe ...	39	71	64	4
Loanend ...	24	9	9	12
Shoreswood ...	44	30	30	14
Duddo ...	31	28	28	3
Felkington ...	18	16	16	2
Thornton ...	29	18	18	2
Grindon ...	18	2	2	12
Longridge ...	18	6	2	8
Kyloe ...	174	69	53	85
Ancroft ...	354	163	159	168
Holy Island ...	104	22	14	101
Twizell ...	43	13	14	22
Ord ...	130	76	72	37
Cornhill ...	143	41	28	82
Totals ...	1444	743	668	556

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Total Cases Notified			Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	...	—	—	—	—
Measles	5	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	30	—	—	—	—
Cerebral Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—

Food Poisoning.—One case of Food Poisoning.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. Y. Park

M.O.H.

Cross House,
Norham-on-Tweed.
June, 1954.

Annual Report of the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1953

Gentlemen,

In accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, I herewith submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Public Health Act, 1936.

Part Two. Sanitation and Buildings	...	...	69
Part Three. Nuisances	...	...	10
Part Four. Water Supplies	...	...	79
Part Five. Notifiable Diseases	...	...	10
Total Visits. etc.	168

Housing Act, 1936.

Part Two. Inspection of Insanitary Houses	...	12
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Housing Act, 1949.

Part Two. Section 20. Improvement Grants—		
Visits in connection	...	40

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Visits in connection with infestations and administration	...	60
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Petroleum Consolidated Act, 1928.

Visits in connection with the storage of petrol	28
Total	308

Other Visits and Inspections.

(1) Council House Repairs	...	120
(2) Tradesmen re above	...	30
(3) Building Byelaws	...	56
(4) Town and Country Planning Act, 1947	...	50
(5) Miscellaneous Visits, Interviews. etc.	...	44
Total	...	300
Total Visits, Inspections, Interviews, etc.	...	608

Number of Notices served during the Year.

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Result of Service of such Notices.

(1)	Sanitary Conveniences — Repair or provision of W.C.s	...	...	...	...	20
(2)	Renewal of Sanitary Dustbins	...	...	...	...	4
(3)	Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	5
(4)	Rodent infestations cleared	...	...	...	...	4

Samples for Analysis.

		Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Water—Chemical	...	10	10	—
Bacteriological		14	12	2

COMMENTARY**Refuse Collection.**

Refuse collection and disposal has been maintained as in recent years though with difficulty, owing to the age and infirmity of the Bedford vehicle, but the imminent delivery of a new vehicle should eliminate this.

Water Supplies.

The villages of Norham, Horncliffe, Shoresdean, Thornton, Scremerston and East Ord have at present ample supplies, completely justifying the various improvement works carried out in recent years.

The acquisition of the Estate water undertaking in Cornhill was a step taken purely on a temporary basis, in order that the building of new houses, so urgently needed, could be commenced. However, the laying of new distribution mains throughout the village would, it was considered, fit in with the proposed Glendale Regional Water Scheme, designed to supply water to Cornhill Village as elsewhere in the Glendale Rural District. It is felt that such a scheme, in so far as Cornhill Village is concerned, would be the complete answer, as consumption in Cornhill is expected to increase tremendously, to such an extent that, during a summer drought, it could possibly outstrip production of the old Estate water supply.

The borehole at Holy Island, drilled and continuously pump-tested during May, has been pronounced successful, and it is expected that the pump-house, pumping and distribution mains, and the high level water tower will be completed during the ensuing year.

At Fenwick, the first stage of the scheme was approved during the year, the borehole being drilled, pump tested and declared satisfactory. It is anticipated that stage one of the scheme will be further enhanced during the ensuing year.

Housing.—Housing Act, 1949—Improvements.

For many years, since the suspension of the Housing Rural Workers Act, the need for grant aid to enable owners to bring their housing property up to standard was evident, but post-war material shortages prohibited such law, until 1949. However, the response to the 1949 Housing Act was, in this area, to say the least, surprisingly poor, but a contributory factor to this was that owners of "tied" or "service" houses were prevented from receiving such grants under Section 23. Subsequently, in 1952, Section 2 of the Housing Act, 1952 amended Section 23 of the 1949 Act, and allowed grants to be paid to owners of "tied" or "service" houses, and it is gratifying to see the numbers now taking advantage of the new turn of events.

Houses in Scremerston Village.

In the past the question of reconditioning under-standard houses at Scremerston was never seriously considered in detail owing to the inadequacy of the privately owned water supply. To-day, the water supply trouble does not exist, for there is now an abundance of wholesome water for all needs, and consequently several cottages owned by the Greenwich Hospital Northern Estates, and leased to the National Coal Board, could and should be reconditioned. It would appear that the Greenwich Authorities, exercising a Crown Property immunity not enjoyed by private owners, seem loth to recondition these cottages and keep abreast with the admirable work executed to the cottages of the Hospital Estate farms.

Plans.

Sixty-three plans were deposited with the District Council during the year. Sixty-two of these were subsequently approved and one was rejected.

Disinfection.

All premises where infectious diseases have occurred have been disinfected during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

52, Ravensdowne,
Berwick-upon-Tweed.

August, 1954.

